コッペリオン【COPPELION】

❶遺伝子操作によって生まれた、放射能への抗体を持った子供。
❷その子供たちで組織された、陸上自衛隊第三師団特殊部隊の名称。放射能に汚染された東京での人命救助を任務としている。

(1) Children who were born with gene manipulation to have antibodies against radioactivity.
(2) Name of a special force unit which is composed with these children. They are assigned to the Ground Self-Defense Force 3rd Division. They are assigned to lifesaving missions in the radiation-contaminated Tokyo.

1749
ヤンマガKC

コッペリオン2
井上智徳
TOMONORI INOUE

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時は西暦2036年。
原発震災による放射能汚染で完全封鎖された東京。
自衛隊の特殊部隊[COPPELION―コッペリオン―]の
少女3人は、その死都・東京で悪夢の救助活動を続けていた。
地獄と化した廃墟を、少女たちは駆けずりまわり前進する。
きっと、まだ救える命があるはず……そう信じながら。

CAUTION

※この物語で使用している設定や専門用語は、
物語を理解しやすくするため
観念的に使用している箇所があります。
例えば、「放射線」と厳密には表記すべき場面で、
便宜的に「放射能」を使っていたりします。
あらかじめ御了承ください。

COPPELION
are・・・
成瀬荊(高3)
Naruse Ibara
FWEET
深作葵(高1)
Fukasaku Aoi
野村多恵子(高1)
Nomura Taeko

She can't have gone far!
We have to find Yukiko!
PLIP
PLIP
SHAAAA
...
SNIFF
SNIFF
COPPELION
コッペリオン #9
?!
RUFF
Rain ?!
Shit!
We'll lose the scent!
Oh no!

Hey...
Is this the end of the trail!?
Mrs. Kawabata's in there?
...Wait, that's ...
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
HOTEL
HOTEL
CRACKLE
That leaning hotel!?

Ibara!
You guys wait here!
KCHK
All right...
There's no time to waste!
If the rain soaks into their suits, it'll be too late! It's too much radiation!
The whole place could come down any minute!
It's too danger-ous!
HOTEL UTOPIA
TIMP
Ibara!
What do we do?!
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
Oh, no...!

Tch...
DRIP
DRIP
Elevator's out, huh...
CLACK
Then stairs it is!
CLOSE
Taeko? Wh- What is it?
Huh?
Oh!!
FWUP
FWUP
FWUP
Do you hear that?
Do you...

FWUP
FWUP
FWUP
FWUP
FWUP
FWUP
FWUP
CRACKLE
Come to the leaning hotel!
TMP
TMP
I'm lookin' for her now!
Where's the survivor ... the girl ?!
Ibara Naruse! We're here!
Over there! Head for that hotel!
FWUP
FWUP
FWUP
Yes, sir!
FWIP
FWIP
!

ピ ピピピピピ
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
!
152
DRIP
DRIP
Go away!!
ス…
SWSH

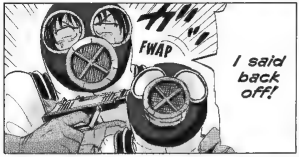
Please... please just go away!
CLACK
CLACK
I'll shoot!
Don't come any closer!
Aha ha ha...!
You completely fell for it!
It's not safe in here—
Where's Miku?!
We made it all up!
Th...
There is no Miku!
Bring out the girl.

KREEEE
Au...
...
...ntie...
!!
...
HUFF WHEEZE
Go back inside!
Miku!
HUFF WHEEZE
Come any closer and I'll kill her!!
Her oxygen tank—
FU
TUMP
Oh no!

!!
FREEZE

And then she'll be all alone!
Her father and I are both fugitives. If we're evacuated, we'll be locked away again!

Not again...!
I can't lose my child...


FWAP
I said back off!

Come on... I can still give you two a vaccine!
But hidin' in here won't help her, either!
SWSH
Just send Miku over here—

...
Just what are you?!

She's trying so hard to act cheerful despite how hard this is for her...
The poor thing...
Your friend, she was crying in the bathroom...
Don't you doubt yourself at all?
You're a cold, lifeless doll!
But you?
If you just give us food and oxygen tanks, we'll manage the rest—
We can live together in this abandoned city!
If you feel anything at all... please leave us be!
Please ...
No one can live in this hell.

We all stayed in Tokyo of our own free will.
...You don't understand.
Tokyo may be condemned, it may be plagued by radiation...
Everyone here has run away from society...
Don't take that away from us!
But we can live freely here!

...complex stuff like that...!
PLIP
I don't get...
PLIP
And that's fine... I'm just a doll, after all...
All so I could help everybody in Tokyo...
Ever since I was little, all I've done is train for this mission.
SCRUB
SCRUB
It's all I know!
But...
...then what'm I even alive for...?!
PUMP
If even the people of Tokyo don't want me...

Don't wipe away...
...all 18 years of my life...

Please...
Please let me save her...!

...go with her... together...
All of us...

CRACK
Aun... tie...

Let's...
Huff...
Hah...

CRACK
Ohh... What have I done...?!
Miku, let's—
CRACK

Miku...!

バキバキ
KREEEE
ゴ
FWOOOOM
ゴゴゴ
KKK
Huh?!
ズゴゴ
GROOOAN
?!

ズドオン
FOOOOM
ガラガラ
Naruse!
It's collapsing!
FOOOOM
Holy...

No!
Ibara!
C...
SLIP
Crap ...!!
WHUP
WHUP
WHUP
WHUP
Vice Principal...
Hurry!
No!
RUMBLE
Hold on!
I can't! The propellers will hit the hotel!
What are you waiting for?! Take us in!

?!
...Take her hand...
Here...
CRACKLE
Hurry...
Don't worry about me...
... okay?
Save her... Ibara.

WHUP
WHUP
WHUP
Auntie ...!
Ahun...
Ahun...
Ahuh...
Hng...

CLANK
#9 END

COPPELION
コッペリオン #10
PLIP
PLIP
No need to change clothes.
In ya go!
Alright, the reading's normal!

You did well, girls.
The child's health seems fine.
But we'll take her to a hospital, just in case.
Be good to her.
We'll foot the bill for anything she needs.
...
You don't need to worry about that.
GASP
...!

Why...?
Why'd it haveta be like this...
M-Mrs. Kawa-bata...
HIC
You three saved that girl's life.
You did the best you could.
Don't let it get to you.

There's a father?
What?!
Wait...
Whatever happened to her father?
A smoke flare!
VP!
We haveta find him and—
We last saw him east of here, near Tokyo Race Course!
It's three kilometers to the east!
I see it!
Hrm ?!

But...!
He must've gone there to look for Miku!
No, he couldn't have...!
East...?
He went to Tokyo Race Course?!
He's askin' for help!
The radiation level in that area's through the roof!
He must need something urgently...
Our destination is Tokyo Race Course!
WHEEEEN
Everyone in the chopper!

R.R.R.M.M.M
You know what I'm getting at.
We can't land in there.
Yes.
You say there's a high concentration of radioactive particles within the Race Course grounds?
If the entire Race Course is contaminated...
We'd need more appropriate shielding for radiation that intense.
Urgh ...
Daddy... ahun...
Daddy, where are you...?
Daddy ...

VWEEEEN
WHUP
WHUP
WHUP
WHUP
WHUP
Be careful!
Ibara!
WHAR
RRRRN
WHAR
HWOOOO
Take me down!
Okay!

You'll see him soon!
Don't cry!
Miku...
Ahuh...
Daddy...
Miss Ibara'll find him!
Uh-huh!
Really...?
Nuh-uh!
I promise!
I won't... be all alone?

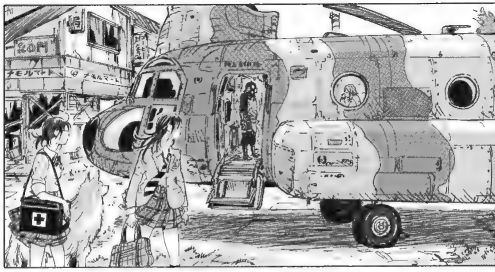
Let her down!
We have a visual on the survivor
CLUNK
WHUP
WHUP
WHUP
WHUP
THUD
THUD
Mister!
TMP
GASP
It's you...?
Missy...

Did...
Did ya find her...?
Miku...
Mi...
Ah...
That's great news...
She's safe now!
...
Yes...
KOFF
It's enough ...
Please... leave me...
We'll pull you outta here, just hold on!
FWAP
Come on!
No...

I've watched so many people with these same symptoms give up the ghost, y'see...
This's radiation poisoning ...
I know what'll happen to me.
Don't let my daughter see me like this...
Please ...
KOFF
We can save you!
There's still time!
KCHK
How did you get to be so strong...?
Why ...?
This's the end of my 20 years...
S'all right... y'reap what ya sow.

Not even radiation...
Once ya find something to protect, nothing can scare ya...
Urgh ...
If you die, it's all over!
One day... you'll get it...
...as long as Miku keeps on smilin'... I...
Truth is...
Even dyin' ain't scary...

I won't... be all alone?
Nuh-uh!
I promise!



You don't have time for tears.
There may still be people waiting to be rescued.

Pull yourself together, Aoi Fukasaku.

I *promised* her...
I just...

Ahuuuh! Waaah!
...
A-And then...

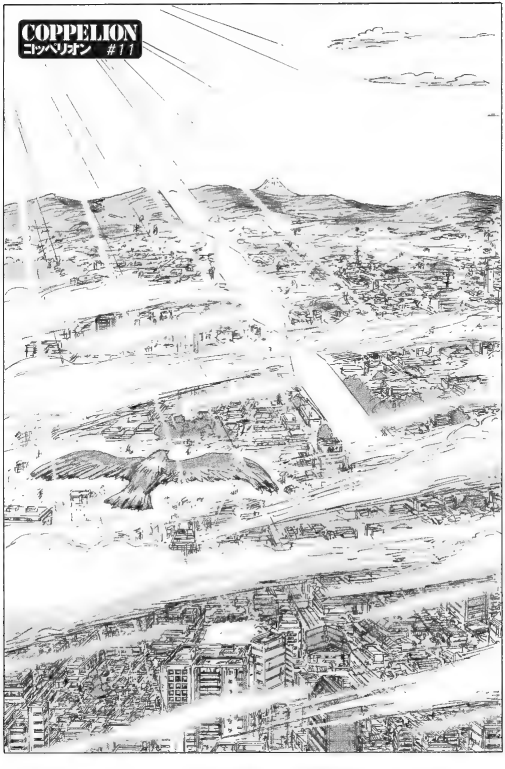
That she wouldn't be all alone!
I told her we'd save her dad...

Is that what you want?
HIC
HIC
I'll see that she's taken care of.
Alright.
Yes. I'll do everything in my power.
...
...that she won't be alone?
SNIFF
Can you p-promise...
I'll make it quick... urgh...
SNIFFLE
...I'm gonna say good-bye to Miku...
Then...
Man, oh, man...
We're almost out of time here. Start the engine!
That's enough chatter, Ibuse!
You got yourself one heck of a re-sponsibility there, VP.
Oh, man...

Miku?
I'm sorry...
We have to go...
...
I'm really sorry... I can't do anything...
There might be more people who need help...
So I have to stay in Tokyo...
That's... that's, like, our job.
To help everybody in Tokyo...

Wait...!
?!
If you get lonely, the soldier with the moustache'll play with you, okay?
I-I'm gonna go, okay?
CLACK
...I'm sorry I'm so useless!
WHUP
WHUP
FWOOP
WHUP
WHUP
Um, Ibara...
Miku wanted me to tell you something.
She got a complaint to file?
Oh yeah?

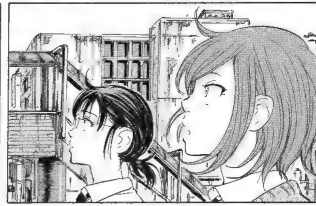
...and good luck.
She said thank you...
Wait for uuus!!
Ibara!
The heck...
What a kiddy thing ta say.
#10 END


COPPELION
コッペリオン #11

10 FLASH
中河原駅
?
October 3rd: Fuchu-Nakagawara Station!
VRR
That.
Whatcha lookin' at, Taeko?
Ibara?
What's up with her?

She's been like that all day—just staring off into the distance.

She is kinda spacey.
Come to think of it...



Ever since she became the class representative, she's had so much to bear, all by herself...

...
It must be difficult for her.

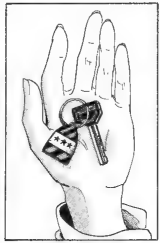
We have to start contributing more, somehow...
But we *all* carry the same antibodies...
I'm dumb, I'm a weakling, I'm a total klutz, and I'm always starving...
Like, what can I even do?
FHUMP
You're still better than *me*, Taeko.
!
That's enough outta you, Aoi.
If I wasn't so *cute*, I'd just die!
Time to look for survivors.
Break's over.

They're fugitives, outcasts...
They might be hidin' from us.
That's why they're livin' here, of all places.
Ibaaara, there isn't anybody here!
Again?!
I don't wanna!
We've looked all *over* and there's *nobody* and it's so *hot* and I'm *sleepy*...
...?!
Mr. Wolf?
He's coming this way...
Nobody will bother them here...
...other than *us*.

?!

What is it?
I told you not to come so close. You'll set off the Geiger counter!

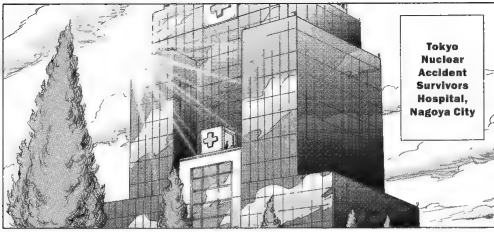
Look...
Looks like a car key.



Ibara!
He has something in his mouth!

Ah!
Waaait! My stuff!
Alright! Lead on!
TMP TMP

PANT
He must...
...have found something in that direction!
PANT


Tokyo Nuclear Accident Survivors Hospital, Nagoya City

Mr. Heiji Tanizaki.

BEEP
BEEP

Colonel Moustache.
You again...

I feel good today. What do you want to know?
Stubborn fellow, aren't you...

I have a few questions ...
...How do you feel?

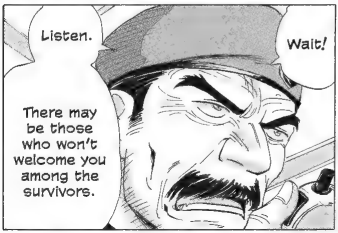
HAA
HOO
The "distributor" who brought you supplies in Tokyo— who is he?
You must have had a benefactor of superior intelligence ...
...or you couldn't have withstood the radiation for over two decades.
Is he on death row, like you?
...why do you insist on hiding him?
Tell me...
...do you have family?
...let's talk about something more fitting.
Colonel Mous-tache...
For instance...
And your name was on it.
We saw the list of Fuchu Prison inmates.

I take it you didn't get anything outta him.
That look...
You were interrogating the old man again, weren't you, VP?
It wasn't an interro-gation.
SQUISH
CLOP
CLOP
I believe he's the survivors' *leader*.
The one who developed their hazmat suits, which surpass our Barrier Suits.
Just who could our mystery distributor be, anyway ...?
Fooah...
He's a *clever* one.
And we *will* catch him.
...he can manufacture clean oxygen, he provides them with food and water... he's more than just a mere deviant.
CRACK
Putting his intentions aside...

We're not sure yet.
BEEP GSSH
THIS IS COPPELION ON CHANNEL ONE!
Did you locate more survivors, Naruse?
I'm here.
We're at Fuchu Prison.
府中刑務所
FUCHU PRISON
Taako's wolf brought us a car key, an' then brought us here.
Fuchu Prison ?!

WE'RE GONNA TAKE A LOOK AROUND NOW.

He must've found somethin' here...


Listen.
There may be those who won't welcome you among the survivors.
Wait!

SWIISH
BUT THERE MAY BE THOSE WHO STILL CALL IT HOME.

Yes... we know.

STAY ALERT.
MANY ESCAPED FROM THAT PRISON 20 YEARS AGO...

Oh, wait!
SWSH

Gah...
C'mon, Aoi, Taeko.

If we find somethin', I'll call again.
We're movin' in.

Like a library! Ooh, or a museum!
Can't we go someplace more, you know, artsy?!
Go on your own, then.

We're all the way in Tokyo and it's all sports stadiums and prisons and stuff...
Those're places for, like, creepy old farts!

RA TA TA TA
?!
BSSH
PING
WHUD
WHUD WHUD WHUD
Wha ?!
We're under fire! Retreat!

THWUMP
BSHOOM
BSHOOM
Run! Take cover!
No waaaay !!
Shit!
Where are they ?!
FSSH
I can't take it anymore !
HIC
I wanna go back to Osakaaa!
We're not wanted here!
They don't *want* our help!

You'll be shot! Run away!
Shh!

Hey...
What's he doin'?!

GRRR...
Somebody's comin' out...

TMP

Looks like it.
Survivors?

...he stole the key?
Kamata, do you suppose...
...they might be doing...?
What do you think...
Yeah.
CLINK
They must be lookin' for this.
Doc.

PATIENT: MIKU KAWABATA
CONDITION: SYMPTOMS OF PTSD. MONITOR FOR HYPERPNEA.
DR. EDOGAWA
TOKYO NUCLEAR ACCIDENT SURVIVORS HOSPITAL
Fooah ...
If you're here to interrogate Miku... could you come back another time?
She's not in any condition for it.
Vice Principal Mishima!
Well!
!
You see, she won't speak a word.
It won't do you any good.
...I just want to ask a few questions.
Who said this was an interrogation?

It's no surprise...
She lost her entire family in one blow.
She's always staring out the window...
Out towards Tokyo.
Dr. Edogawa...
Speaking as someone who's worked in this hospital for 20 years...
I believe it would be best to leave her be for now.
...I don't want to do things like this.
But it's part of the job.
SWISH

...I know, Vice Principal.
Are you inside the prison?
PSSH
What is it, Naruse?
FWT
VP, WE'VE GOT AN EMER-GENCY!
But they're armed.
We've got a visual on two survivors.
Yes.

PSSH
Requestin' permission to fire.
I'll make 'em surrender in 10 seconds!
#11 END

We've got a visual on two survivors outside of Fuchu Prison.
This is Coppelion.

COPPELION
コッペリオン #12
Requestin' permission to fire.

NO VIOLENCE ON PRISON GROUNDS
禁止します
I'll make 'em surrender in 10 seconds!

Hold your fire!

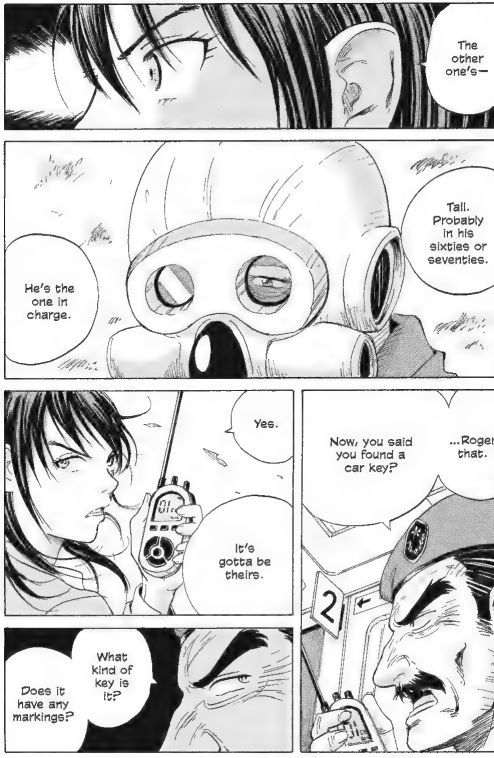
ヒヲ!!
FREEZE
?!

Let's see...
Okay ...

Before going into battle, you have to read your opponents.

Looks like he's in his forties.
One of them's a short, rough-looking guy...

You learned that in class.


The other one's—
Tall. Probably in his sixties or seventies.
He's the one in charge.
Yes.
It's gotta be theirs.
Now, you said you found a car key?
...Roger that.
2
What kind of key is it?
Does it have any markings?

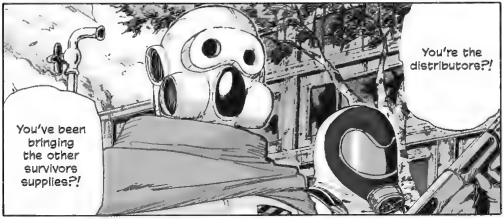
Lessee... it has a weird keychain.
It's got three stars, with stripes in the background—
Umm...
CLINK
What about it?
Yeah...
Three stars on stripes ...?!
What ...?!
That an order?
...
Naruse.
Can you do it without wounding them?
...
VP? YOU THERE ...?
We'll be on our way ASAP.
SWISH
Take them alive.

Doc!
Don't come any closer!
KCHK
Don't shoot!
You!
y...
Kill me and you'll never find it!
We have your car key!
Augh! She's a monster !!
Where's your suit ...?!

Anti-bodies ...?
We're Coppelion— a special forces unit with the JGSDF 3rd Division.
For radiation ...?!
We have antibodies that make us immune to radiation.
Give us the key!
We didn't ask for that!
CHK
A JGSDF helicopter's on its way.
We're here to evacuate you.
I see... they must have run out of supplies...
An SOS?
...aren't you the ones who sent out an SOS?
But...

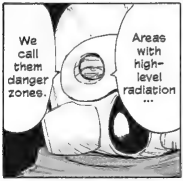
Hold up...

Someone sent out an SOS because our delivery is so late...


You're the distributors?!
You've been bringing the other survivors supplies?!

It's put us in a difficult position.
...several months ago, new danger zones suddenly started forming in the Tama-Fuchu area.

Correct.
We made deliveries on every Sunday until last month.
However ...

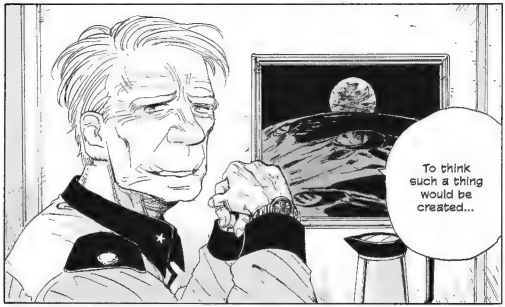

We call them danger zones.
Areas with high-level radiation ...

Danger zones?

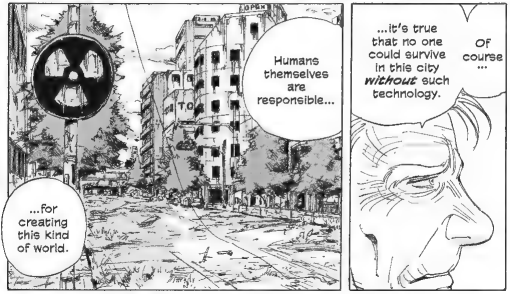
Yes... this is my *duty*.
SWIIISH
You *knew* it was that bad, but you still came out here?
The radiation...
Aoi! Taeko!
Bring the key!
We cannot unlock the delivery truck without it.
Please... return the key to us.
HUFF
We must change our oxygen tanks soon...
The air inside the truck is clean...
WHEEZE
...Alright.

TMD
THIS IS MISHIMA!
CLOP
Mushanokoji!
Hello hello!
The eel you treated me to last night was positively heavenly—
Vice Principal, what a surprise!
3RD DIVISION RESEARCH CENTER
I need you to run an urgent search!
Get me a list of Tristar Industries' most capable nuclear engineers! Anyone who'd be in their sixties or seventies now!
PING
...the company we developed the Barrier Suits with?
The contractors behind Daiba Nuclear Power Plant's construction?
Tristar Industries? You mean...
TAK TAK
THE VERY SAME! LOOK FOR THOSE WHO WERE CONFIRMED DEAD WITHIN THE LAST 20 YEARS...
...AND ANY WHO'VE GONE MISSING! HURRY!

They found the distributor.
カチ
KCHK
What's this about, VP?
Um...
That's why he's an expert in radiation.
And he's connected to Tristar Industries.
CDC
Antibodies for radiation...
Now, now.
Ugh, first prison clothes and now work uniforms? This sucks!
That felt great!
Phew ...
ガチャ
KCHK


To think such a thing would be created...

First we created suits to withstand radiation... and now we engineer *human beings*.
Scientific progress is truly astounding.


Humans themselves are responsible...
...for creating this kind of world.
...it's true that no one could survive in this city *without* such technology.
Of course ...

Um... May I ask a question?
Who are you?
It's clear you know a lot about radiation.
And the others relied on you to survive.
This apple was raised underground...
...with grow lights in place of sunlight.
Try it.
Dessert?! Don't mind if I do!
OMF
!!
MUNCH
CRUNCH
You're only ever fast when there's food at stake...
...
Ah...
It tastes weird! And it's not crispy! Whyyy?!
Huh?!

...they cannot compare to the bounties of nature.
We raise other plants and livestock as well, but...
This is the limit of our technology.
No man-made imitation can compare...
A fake Sun is insufficient.
It seems that life can only thrive under the open sky.
We live beneath Shibuya.
FLAP
Yes. The deeper you venture into the city, the more they increase in both size and number.
Since Tokyo has a lotta underground facilities.
...You mean you've got a place underground that's safe like this truck, right?

Oh my goooosh! I wanna goooo!
Go on your own!
You mean the legendary, super trendy Shibuya?! Where all the cool young people hang?!
Shi-buya?!
I fear it is not quite so exciting...
Yes ...?
That is not a good sign...
We'll have to search the shrine for her.
SHE'S NOT ANSWER-IN' THE RADIO!
NO LUCK, DOC!
!
There used to be many more elderly living there, but...
Who are you talking about?
She lives beneath the prison.
An elderly woman named *Ayame*.

She's the only one left... alive?
Ayame's the only one left.
You'd find them at the Race Course grave, now.
If their food ran out...
But they've all gone missing.
The Kawabata family... and an old man named Heiji.
Not quite... there are still others who live in this area.
FLAP
This old lady's the only one left!
We found them!
Are they all well?
Won-derful!
Did you, now?!

I'm sorry...
It was my fault.
I couldn't save 'em...
...Mitsuo and Yukiko Kawabata both passed away.
So many awful coincidences piled up, and...!
Aoi's right!
It was *not* your fault, Ibara!
She's in a safe place now.
Yes ...
Is she safe...?
...And their daughter Miku...

That girl is my last hope.
I see...
She was born and raised here, after the accident.
Tokyo is her hometown... the only world she knows.
SWISH
...A hometown...
...

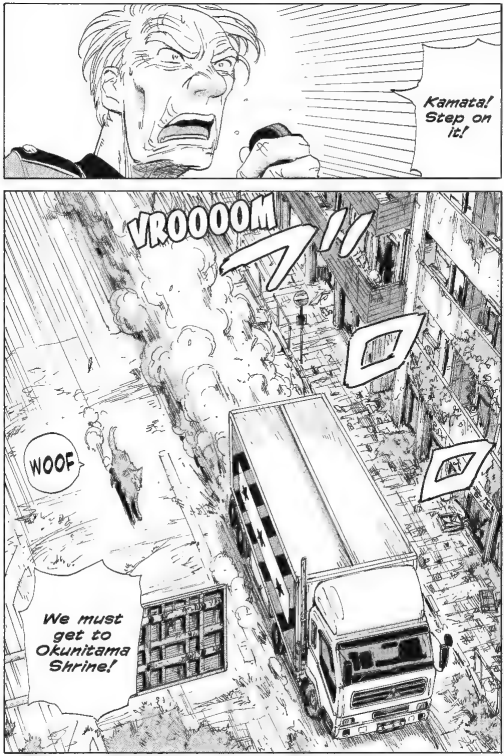
The place dearest to one's heart.

Yes...
Take us out, Kamata.
We gotta get a move on.
Doc...
VROOOM
VRUM
VRUM
MIYANISHI
FUCHU CITY HALL
OKUNITAMA SHRINE
It's on the south end of a street called Elm Row...
...just north of the Race Course.
CLUNK
CLUNK
Where're we goin'?
We often took her there to pray.
We'll search for Ayame at Okunitama Shrine.

Ibara...! That whole area is intensely contaminated ...!
The Race Course?!
No hazmat suit can block that much radiation!
It's a danger zone now?!
We must get to Okunitama Shrine!
WOOF
WOOF
ゴロロロロ
GYROOOOO
Kamata! Step on it!
#12 END

Okunitama Shrine...

We often took her there to pray.
OKUNITAMA SHRINE
We'll search for Ayame there.
The Race Course ?!
...just north of the Race Course.
It's on the south end of a street called Elm Row...
That whole area is intensely contaminated ...!
Ibara ...!
No hazmat suit can block that much radiation!
It's a danger zone now?!


Kamata! Step on it!
VROOOOM
WOOF
We must get to Okunitama Shrine!

TWEET
府中
FUCHU
VROOOOO
FLAP
FLAP
BAM
KREEE

Why on earth has the radiation become so strong?
It was no simple feat avoiding the danger zones on our way here...
The radiation has spread quite a bit.
What about the bones at the Race Course?
A lotta Strontium-90 built up in 'em, so...
Ah, but where did the Strontium *itself* come from?
Radioactive particles must have a point of origin.
I believe that whatever's causing the radiation to grow more severe...
...must be hidden near the Tama River.

FUKUSHIMA JUNIOR HIGH
Radiation this harmful does not exist in the natural world.
VROOOM
...what could it be?
But like...
But I am certain it will be connected to nuclear power.
I do not know...
The cause will be man-made.
Is that why he calls you "Doc"?
...a nuclear physicist?
Are you...
WHUP
WHUP
WHUP
WHUP

WHUP
WHUP
WHUP
WHUP
Yeesh...
Do you have the list I asked for, Musha-nokoji?
I'm not some express train!
Fooah ...
Every dang day it's Nagoya, Tokyo, Nagoya, Tokyo...
ABOUT THAT, VP...
Good.
The number of scientists with confirmed deaths was much more... *extensive* than I expected.
TAK
TAK
I want their names, occupations, and work history.
Read it off to me.

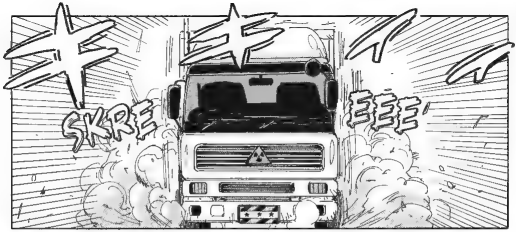
Are there any radiation experts among them?
...And what about those who are still missing?
Those who were in Tokyo at the time of the accident...
...succumbed to radiation poisoning.
MUSHA-NOKOJI? WHAT'S TAKING SO LONG?
...
Let's see...
TAK
TAK
THE ONE DELIVERING SUPPLIES TO SURVIVORS IN TOKYO?
WELL... YOU WERE SEARCHING FOR YOUR MYSTERY DISTRIBUTOR, YES?

And who developed the hazmat suits the survivors use...
...the Barrier Suit version 2?
Yes.
No one should be capable of such feats but one of Tristar Industries' senior scientists.
Senior?
He was even *higher* up the ladder... he was their *lead* scientist.
What ...?!

...His name is Denjiro Shiba.
ARE YOU CERTAIN OF THIS?!
MUSHA-NOKOJI! WHO ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!
HE'S BEEN MISSING EVER SINCE THE ACCIDENT 20 YEARS AGO.
I see...
And what did he do for them?
An expert in nuclear physics.
DENJIRO SHIBA
He was a scientist employed by Shinto Electric and Tristar Industries.

Technology just hadn't caught up to him yet.
And that's not even the half of it.
He came up with the theory for Barrier Suits 35 years ago.
Almost everything.
Dr. Shiba...
...was in charge of designing Daiba Nuclear Power Plant!
He was what...?!

He was the father of that accident.


SKRE
EEE

TONK
Gahh!

Why did we stop?!
What happened, Kamata?!

Ooow!!
O...
Oh, dear!

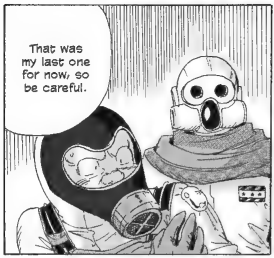
ピピ
BEEP
BEEP
ピ
BEEP
BEEP
ピ
W-We had ta, Doc!
TK
TK
826
The whole street's a danger zone!
The radiation's spread all the way to the north side of Elm Row...
Damn ...!
WHAM
If we go any farther...
The counter's blarin'!
Wait here.
We'll go the rest of the way alone.

プシュー
PSSSH
ウ
ウ
ウ

The north side of Elm Row.
This is our current location.
I'll go over the map with you.
Over here!
I've left it on—if you require anything, you need only say so.
Take this radio.
Got it.
ELM ROW
Follow the road south and you'll get to the shrine.
OKUNITAMA SHRINE
Could ya stick out your shoulder?
What is it?
Oh yeah, I almost forgot!
Okay.

!
That's a polymer seal— so no air leaks.
PCHING
...They call aether a cure-all, but it really only prevents radiation poisoning.

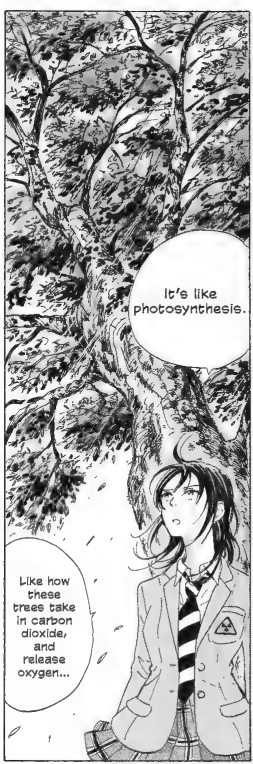
It's called aether. It's a cure-all.
...What is this?
GWSH


That was my last one for now, so be careful.

And if you're exposed to too much radiation, it only works for 10 minutes at that.
KCHK

Tell me, what is it made of?
A miracle medicine, indeed...

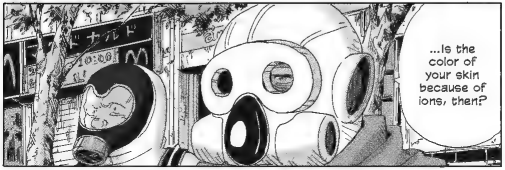
Aether...
...is made from cells collected from our bodies.
Your cells?!
Our cells...
...contain unique "ion exchangers."


It's like photosynthesis.
Like how these trees take in carbon dioxide, and release oxygen...
The ion exchangers absorb and neutralize radioactive ions in the body.

So even though you can inject ion exchangers into ordinary people...
...they'll only work for 10 minutes before they're used up.
But the mutations caused by aether won't carry down to the next generation of cells.
...Is the color of your skin because of ions, then?
Is that why you three are so very pale...?

"Coppelia" as in the doll, combined with ion...
That's what we are: Coppelion.
#13 END

The ion exchangers absorb and neutralize radioactive ions in the body.
Our cells contain unique "ion exchangers."
COPPELION
コッペリオン #14


...Is the color of your skin because of ions, then?

"Coppelia" as in the doll, combined with ion...

Is that why you three are so very pale?

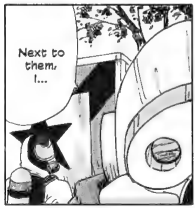
30
That's what we are: *Coppelion*.

You were subject to human experimentation.
And you girls... have accepted that?
...
...regardless of what you might feel.
They played with your DNA before you were even born...
Do you realize that?
...you act so obedient.
And yet...
Why do you remain as government puppets?

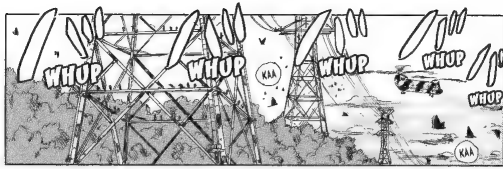
SWIISH
All I wanted...
...was to see Tokyo with my own eyes.
If not for the nuclear accident...
...we'd never have been born.
So ...
...we're connected to this place.
Even though I'd never been here before...
...sometimes seein' it makes me feel kinda nostalgic.

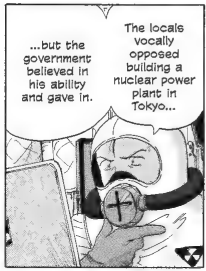
SWIIISH
I think that Tokyo...
...is my hometown.

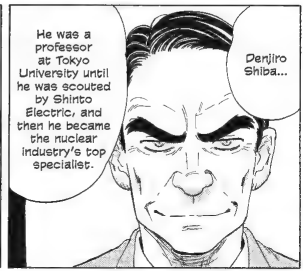
Such strong girls...


Next to them, I...

And live on with pride.
They've accepted their tragic reality...

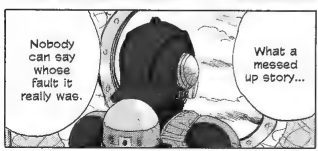

WHUP
WHUP
KAA
WHUP
WHUP
WHUP
KAA


The locals vocally opposed building a nuclear power plant in Tokyo...
...but the government believed in his ability and gave in.


Denjiro Shiba...
He was a professor at Tokyo University until he was scouted by Shinto Electric, and then he became the nuclear industry's top specialist.

Dr. Shiba must've stayed in Tokyo to help the survivors voluntarily...
...out of a sense of guilt.

And an accident still took place.
Even *thinking* about building a nuclear power plant in a country with so many earthquakes was a grave mistake.

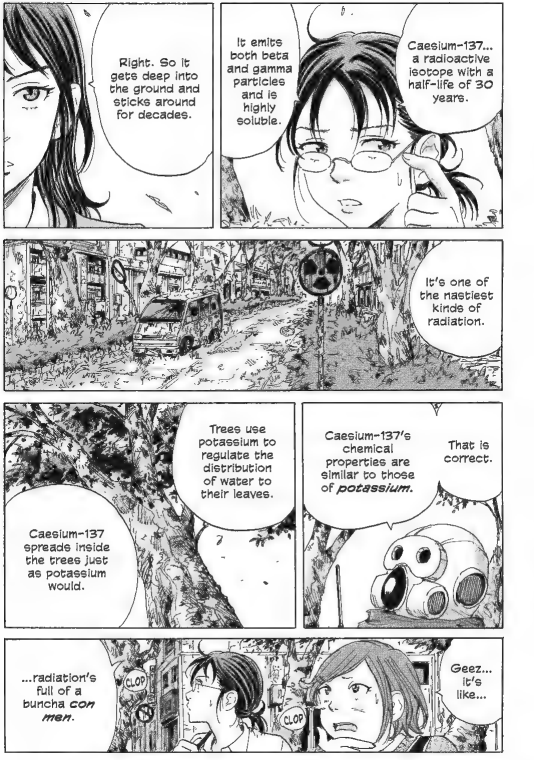

What a messed up story...
Nobody can say whose fault it really was.

The arrogance of scientists ...
...has given birth to countless disasters.
Does he look like a charitable man to you, Ibuse?
I know I can never truly understand how you feel.
VP...
But...
...and show him just how stained his hands are.
We'll drag him back no matter the cost...
He *will* do his part to help clean up his mess.
Even after 20 years we're far from done with dealing with that disaster.
Naruse, come in!
FVVT
...you can't aim all your anger at just one man.

So you knew it was him, huh?
Uh...
SWSH
Yes, VP?
HAVE YOU RESTRAINED THE DISTRIBUTOR?
WHAT'S YOUR STATUS?
They're talkin' with somebody!
Doc...!
His name is Denjiro Shiba... Tristar Industries' most genius scientist.
He's the nuclear plant's ...
...designer ...?!
THE DISTRIBUTOR IS NO ORDINARY MAN.
NARUSE ...
HE'S THE DESIGNER BEHIND DAIBA NUCLEAR POWER PLANT.

They can hear us as well.
Quiet...
They figured it out, Doc!
Crap!
WE'LL BE THE ONES TO BRING HIM IN.
DON'T LET HIM GET AWAY.
WE'LL BE THERE IN LESS THAN TWO HOURS.
Didn't the doctor say this radio is on?
Um... Ibara...
We'll guard him.
... Roger.
HOW-EVER...
うな
I INTEND TO FACE MY SINS HEAD ON.
DO NOT WORRY. I SHAN'T RUN AWAY.
WE HEARD.

...If you feel guilty about the accident, then...
Doctor...
After that, you may do with me what you like.
...evacuating the others must come first.
Ew!
They're like, all twisted up!
Huh? What's wrong with the trees?!
I feel like I've heard it before...
?
Caesi... um. Wazzat again?
Trees grow deformed after long-time exposure to radiation.
Ah... the trees have absorbed Caesium-137.


Right. So it gets deep into the ground and sticks around for decades.
It emits both beta and gamma particles and is highly soluble.
Caesium-137... a radioactive isotope with a half-life of 30 years.
It's one of the nastiest kinds of radiation.
Trees use potassium to regulate the distribution of water to their leaves.
Caesium-137 spreads inside the trees just as potassium would.
Caesium-137's chemical properties are similar to those of potassium.
That is correct.
...radiation's full of a buncha con men.
CLOP
CLOP
Geez... it's like...

These Zelkova elm trees are a symbol of Fuchu. They're a national monument.
They were planted almost a thousand years ago.
Indeed, by "conning" the trees, radiation maintains a fixed presence here.
Con men...
Could anyone from that time ever have imagined they would come to look like this?
SWIISH
That they would bear humanity's mistakes...
...yet still continue their struggle to survive?

That voice...!
?!
FVVT
S-SOME-ONE! HELP ME!
BEEP GSSSH
I RAN TO THE ART MUSEUM! I'M SURROUNDED!
GSSSH
HEEELP!
PBT
Crow monster ?!
Ma'am, where are you?!
That was Ayame!
BEEP
A GIANT CROW MON-STER—
GSSSSSH
BEEP
HELP—
—CROW!
GSSH
It's in the forest, northeast of you!
She must mean Fuchu Art Museum!
Art museum?!

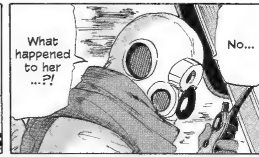
Go east and you'll come upon Kogane Highway!
Understood!
THUNK
VRRM
VRRM
We'll meet you soon!
You go ahead in the truck!
Roger!
THE ART MUSEUM IS JUST BEYOND!
Ibara! Ibaaara!
Did she say crow monster?!
Ibara...

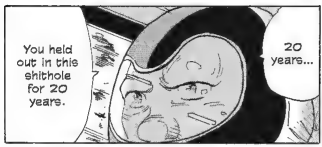
HUFF
ROUTE 15
TOKYO
HUFF
15分車検
車検
15 MINUTE VEHICLE INSPECTIONS CHUCHU BRANCH
HWOOOO
A giant mutated crow?!
Wait... is a crow monster like...
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
Koganei Highway... this's it!
Then what attacked Miss Ayame?! Huh?!
Radiation doesn't create oversized monsters!
You read too much manga.
How come nobody told me there were monsters like that?!

VROOM
Ayame! Come in!

Let's move!
That's what we're gonna find out!
KCHK

Let's make this trip the last one.
Doc...

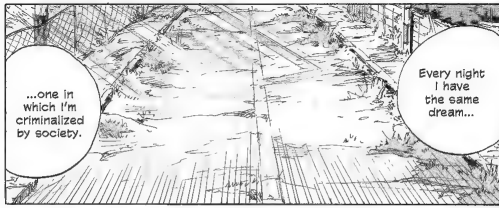

What happened to her ...?!
No...


You held out in this shithole for 20 years.
20 years...

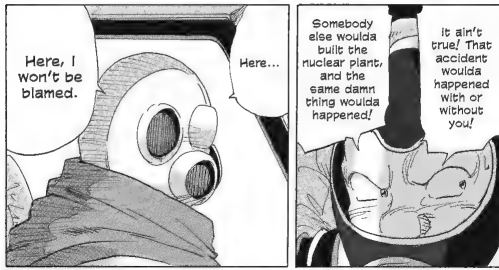
We've done all we can as normal human beings...
Those girls will take care of the rest.

No one has the right to blame you for what happened.

When the helicopter arrives, don't argue. Go with them.
You should have no difficulties starting over.
I've caused you much hardship.
Kamata ...
I am grateful to you from the bottom of my heart.
You've seen nothing but danger as my assistant.
Getting ya on that helicopter'll be my last real job.
Ha... A guy like me could live in any old hole in the ground.
...terrified of the outside world.
I'm terrified, Kamata ...
We will board that chopper!
Doc...


Every night I have the same dream...
...one in which I'm criminalized by society.

Everyone blames me...
Everyone holds me responsible for the accident.
And I cannot say a single word.
Because what they say is true.


It ain't true! That accident woulda happened with or without you!
Somebody else woulda built the nuclear plant, and the same damn thing woulda happened!
Here...
Here, I won't be blamed.

Not so long as I stay in Tokyo...

Something's approaching from the air!
...?!
What...
...is that?!
But I'm so exhausted already...!
HUFF
HUFF
Run, Aoi! You're gonna get left behind!
WOBBLE
HUFF
Wait a sec...
Ibara! Taekooo!
HUFF
ズボーン

What wazzat?!
ドサ
THUD
Huh...?!

Smoke !
That's by the art museum!

FSSSH
!!

Wait!
What was that explosion ?!
ダッ
TMP
Come on!

KAA
SWISH
...?!
Crows...?
#14 END

Ibara! Look!
There's the forest!
TMP
TMP
TMP
!!
It's just a little farther!
SWIISH
COPPELION
コッペリオン #15
The doctor's delivery truck...
No...!

CLANK
KOFF
Dr. Shiba!
Are you there?! Say something!
FSSSH
Doctor!
SWISH
!
In here...
Got it!
FWAP
TMP
We'll get you out of there!
I'm in the driver's seat.
Kamata...

FWUMP
CLANK
FWAP
Kamata's foot is pinned...!
CLUNK
Hrng !!
Doctor !
You okay?!
HUFF
HUFF
...?
Urgh ....
I can't get it out...!
TUG

?!
Ibara!
SWIP
I'm comin' down!
Thank you!
Get away from the truck!
GLUG
GLUG
It's leaking fuel!
Save Dr. Shiba!
Forget me!
...
You gotta get out NOW!

He's in a totally different class than me!
CLUNK
I can guarantee ya he'll be a huge help!
SWIP
Don't say such a thing!
Kamata ...
You could use this guy!
SHOVE
Hey, girlie!
C'mon ...
Think about who's the priority here!
KCHK
CRACKLE
FSSH...
Ibara! Hurry!
The gas is spreading towards the fire!

Every life is precious!
Wh-What are you thinking —?
No!
BSHOOM
!!
?!
BCHING
SHOOOO
?!
...
DRIP

TUG
Hrrrrgh ...!
That was an acid shot!
Now pull with all your might!
WHUMP
It work-ed!
I'm free!
Gyaahh!
SSSSSH
SSSSSH
Climb, Kamata!
BTOOOOM
!!

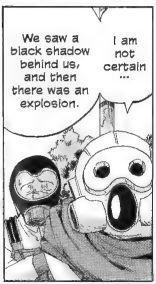
FSSSH
FWUD
Gah!

Thanks, that was a close one!
Some-how...
Ow, ow...

Are you alright ?!
Guys!
TAP
TAP

What happened ?!

We've lost our safe haven.
The truck is destroyed ...
SWISH
CRACKLE


We saw a black shadow behind us, and then there was an explosion.
I am not certain ...

Y-Yes!
JUMP
Be careful!
Find someplace to hide!
Ibara?!
GWSH
The helicopter's almost here!
You two keep the doc safe!
I'll find Ayame!
Huh.
An art museum... guess this is "someplace artsy."

FWSH
DD
CRACK
TWEET
TWEET
Ayame! Ma'am, are you in here?!
Ayame—
BEEP GSSH
Tch...
KCHK
GSH BEEP BEEP
A radio ...!

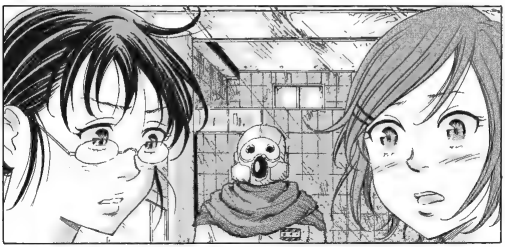
Ibara!
?!
Is this hers...?
BOOP
SWSH
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
Taeko?
What's wrong?!
?!
I told ya to stay put!
Look!

Miss Ibara! Have you found Ayame...?!
I'm not sure, but perhaps it's—
Crows? What's with that huge one?!
The "crow monster" ...?!
What could have happened ...?
No...!
But I did find her radio.
She's not here...
...along with a large number of other elderly.
20 years ago, Ayame was left behind in a retirement home...
No.
I mean... she was another fugitive from the prison, wasn't she?
Do you think... she ran away from us?
But that's...
What ...?

...using the accident as an excuse.
Their families abandoned them...
That's so... so sad...
They believed that, if evacuated, they'd only be a burden on their families ...
The elderly had no choice but to live here.
These hands... are responsible for the deaths of millions.
...no one would have met with such misery.
If only I hadn't built that power plant...
It was all because of me.

You're a *scientist*! Stand proud!
Ibara...
That's kinda insensitive...!
Everyone wanted power.
So scientists an' engineers did their best to answer that call.
There's nothin' wrong with that!
But...
I...

...I *love* science.
After all... it's the closest thing I have to a *mother*.



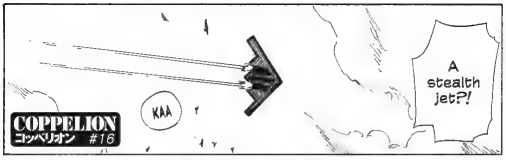
I'll find out.
Hold on...
CHK
It's back again!
Whoa!
What is that thing...!
FWSH
!!
What's she takin' off her glasses for?
That'll just make it harder ta see!
It's the opposite for Taeko.

One-tenth ?!
She sees too far. She has to use those glasses to suppress her sight to one-tenth the distance.
Otherwise she sees too much an' it gives her a headache...
And Aoi...
Me, I'm strong an' agile.
All of us have special abilities cuzza genetic engineering.
CLENCH
There's nothing special about me at all!
Augh! I'm totally useless!
... Except my looks.
Aoi... uhh...
Huh?
... What was yours again?

I want a superpower, too!
Argh!!
There ya have it, then.
I feel at ease watching you girls.
You've shown me that no matter how far we stray from the path, and descend into Hades...
...we will still find beautiful flowers blooming there...
...brightening the path at our feet.
SWISSSH
You're like those elm trees.

Standing nobly in the very face of death...

So what is it, then?
Oh!
Good job, Taeko!
I know what that "crow" is.
Ibara...!
It's a B-2 stealth jet.
A stealth bomber that isn't picked up by radar...
#15 END


KAA
A stealth jet?!

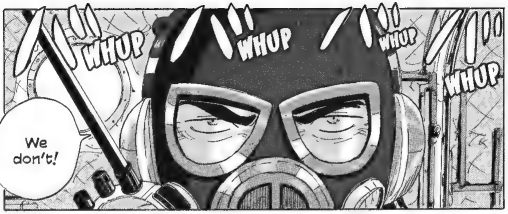
What the heck's a military jet doin' *here*?
Military aircraft?

It looks like it's been modified, but I'm sure it's a B-2 stealth bomber.
I learned to identify military aircraft in class.

Oh!
I don't know...

What ...?!
It's circling to the east—
VVEEEN
It's preparing to land!

There is!
Wait...
FLAP
...is there even a place to *land* in the forest?
But like...
The Japan Air Self-Defense Force Fuchu Base!
...I don't recall the JASDF owning any B-2s.
But...
A JASDF base?!


WHUP
WHUP
WHUP
WHUP
We don't!

Who could it be?
An invader ...

Japan doesn't have even one!
RRRR
Only the rich and bored can afford to build rubbish like that.

...THAT STEALTH JET IS AN INVADER!
WHICH MEANS ...

Figures...

Representative Naruse Ibara.
That's what you'll be finding out...

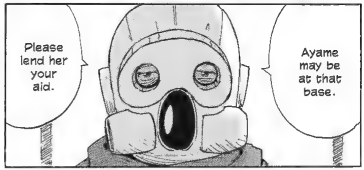
GRASP
FWAP
K-CHK
I'm gonna head for the base.
You guys wait here.

Don't worry, just stick tight!
It'll be easier for me on my own.

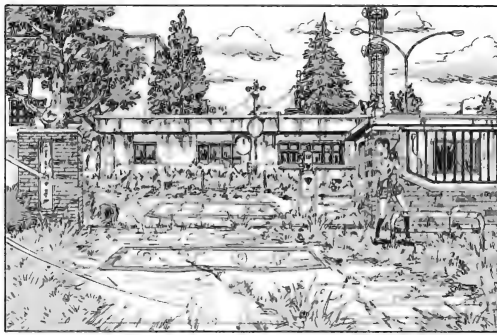
There's gotta be some-thing we can—
Are you sure you'll be all right on your own, Ibara...?

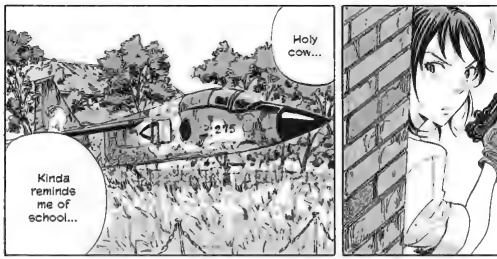
I've got the reflexes of 10 people.
I told ya...
GSH

航空自衛隊
JASDF
FUCHU BASE
府中基地


Please lend her your aid.
Ayame may be at that base.

That's what we came all the way from Osaka for!
Of course!




Holy cow...
215
Kinda reminds me of school...

In I go...
SLIP
WARNING
MINISTRY OF DEFENSE PROPERTY
NO TRESPASSING
JASDF FUCHU BASE COMMANDER

Stop struggling, you old hag!
2
VEEEN
Some-one save me!
Get on!
DRAG
DRAG
N-nooo! I'm bein' abducted!
!
I'm bein' ab-ducted!

TMP
Augh!
Over there?!
Now you're comin' with us!
RECRUITING
ガシャッ
CLANG
You saw too much...
Nooo! Help!
Aha! Is that Ayame?!
TMP
I'm goin' in!
Al-right...

?!
Freeze!
You're so slow the Sun'll set before y'make it in here!
Shut up and help me!
Hurry up, you dunce!
CHK
Who the hell is that?!
Where's her hazmat suit?!
It's a monster! Shoot it!
RA
Drop your weapons an' put your hands in the air!

BSHOOM
PING
PING
BSHOOM
I ain't the monster here, y'moron!
That's my line!
PYOO
PYOO
Shit!
Nobody told me I'd haveta deal with somethin' fishy like this!
VRRR
VRRR
!
THUD

?!
That you, Boss?!
CLICK
Shit...
"The goods" ...?!
We dropped off the goods. We're about to leave!
Yes, I know!
Nobody saw nothin'!
Of course!
FWIP
PING
PING
Roger!
We're outta here!

Let's kiss this hellhole goodbye!
KCHK
Forget it!
Yeek!
Help!!
We can't leave the old hag alive!
Die!!
BS HOOM

Gah!
CHING
Ahh...
?!
SHOOO
Th-Thank you...!
Run for it, ma'am!
Shit...
A smoke-screen!
PSSH
PSSH
You're not gettin' away!
TMP
Quick! We're takin' off!
WUMP

Crap! The hatch!
!!
RRRMM
P.S.S.H
RRRM
VWEEE
?!
FWSH
Look out!

FWAP
Tch...!
Oof!
THWUD
They got away...
KAA
KAA
Ibara...!

SKREE!!
We found a working jeep!
Get in!
Nice one, Taeko!
Oh!

What took you?!
You scoundrel! You're *late!*

Are you hurt?!
Ayame!

If *apologies* were enough they wouldn't'a needed Fuchu Prison!
...My apologies.

Kamata... look after Ayame for me.
Huh?!

Now all that's left is t'wait for the evac chopper!
Ya found Ayame...

It's my turn to help *you*.
Now...
...let's catch that crow.
Those hooligans tried to kill me! A nice little old lady!
I tell ya, they're up to no good!
Why did they need such an expensive jet...?
And where the heck did they even come from?
We shall have to ask for ourselves...
...what business they have in the City of Death.
GSH

Ibara!
We need somethin' powerful enough to shoot 'em down.
But they're in the air...
FWOMP
How 'bout this? I found it in, like, a storehouse over there...
Are you ready?
CLUNK
Good goin', Aoi!
A rocket launcher?!

Alright!
VRRRM
Follow that crow!
Coppelion, move out!
01-1912
FUCHU 317
#16 END

Now let's catch that crow.
It's my turn to help you.
COPPELION
コッペリオン #17
How 'bout this? I found it in, like, a storehouse over there...
FWOMP
We need somethin' powerful enough to shoot 'em down.
But they're in the air...
Ibara!
You guys rock!
A rocket launcher?!

Alright!
VROOM
Follow that crow!

ゴゴゴ
RRRRMM
VROOM
VWEEEEN
VROOOOOM
It's heading due east!
They're going to cross the Tama River!

Ka-Chunk
Yeah!
We learned all about it in gym class!
Get us as close as you can!
The launcher's tracking system's screwed up!
Do you know how to use that...?!
Now hang on!
Your school sounds most extraordinary...
VRRRRRRRM

KAA
VWEEEEN
!
Ibara! They're turning around!
VWEEOOO
Huh?!
FLASH
BOOOM
Crap! Get down!
SKREE
Eeek!!

VVVEEN
They're comin' at us from behind!
Ugh...!
TA TA TA TA TA TA TA TA TA TA
What shall we do?!
It seems they're angry...
TWING
PLINK
WHUD
WHUD
WHUD
Yeeeek !!
BOOM
No no no nooo!!
They'll chase after us!
Turn some-place!

BAM
SKREEEEE
Whoaaa!
FWSH
To the left, then!
Ah...!
You were right!
They're right behind us!
WHOOSH
KAA

RRRMM
...in the ruins of Tokyo!
TOKYO
PLINK
Why are they so intent on following us?!
But why?!
They got somethin' to *hide*...
That's obvious!
K-CHK
Yeeek!
SKREEEE
PLINK
PLINK
PLINK
Do something, Ibara! Hurry!
STA TA TA TA TA TA
It's all or nothin'!
I got this...
FWUP

Fire!
ドゥ
BOOM
ヒュルルル
BSHOOOM
Ha! What an antique!
A missile!
PCH
ピー
BEEP
WARN-ING...
?!
INCOMING PROJECT-ILE—

VWEEN
PING PING
VWOOOM
BSHOOM
Gwahhhh !!
ズゴゴ
BOOM
They can intercept our missiles!
Can't get 'em from the front...
Damn!

W-We can't do this!
That thing's, like, too much for us...!
There's only one left!
Ibara!
TONK
Wait...
Even sophisticated radar systems have a blind spot!
I know they told us in class...!
FLASH
Look out!
BOOM
Hold on!
SKREE

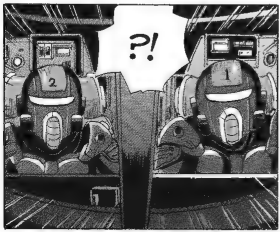
SMASH
SMACK
...
Wh—
clothes
?!
VRRRM
BNAD BNAD
We'll go
out the
other side!

VRRRM
?!
SMASH
This is insaaane ...!
FWAP
Stay down!
There it is again!
VRRRMM
Wh...?
RA TA TA TA TA

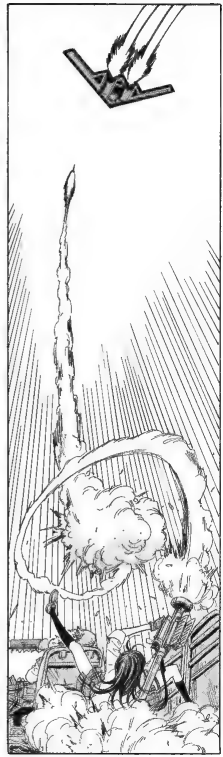
I'll hide us in a tunnel!
We can't take more of this!
SMASH
...hit the brakes!
Wait! On the count of three...
HWOOO

One...
Two...
SLAM
Three!
SKREEEE
Eeek!!

Gotcha!!
BOOM!


?!

Gahhhh!
FSSSSH
FALL



BTOOOOM
RRR
You rock, Ibara!
Whoo hoo!
KAA
Guess ya do use whatcha learn in school in real life!
The blind spot's right underneath 'em!

FWOOSH
Ibara!
What on earth ...?
They're still flying!
What the...?!
What's that smoke-stack?!
SNAP
S'okay!
They're gonna haveta land in the Tama River—
?!
A lake?!
They're aiming for the Tama Boat Race Lake!
Oh no...

FSSSH
It will extinguish the fire and they'll escape scot-free!
Rainwater has pooled deeply there!
Quick! After 'em!
The Geiger counter!
BEEP
?!

SKREEE
BEEP
Stop the jeep!
123
m/Hr
RADIATION
COUNTER
ピピピ
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
Dang it...
ヒューウウウ
...This is a danger zone.

At this rate Tokyo'll be a real ghost town...
It'll be *centuries* before normal people can set foot in here again.
The radiation's gettin' *worse* ...
Won't anything ever get better here...?
Why's it haveta be like that...?
You've given me courage.
You girls are here.
You can move forward.
Now then, *you* can still capture that crow.
It will.
SWISH

Alright...
There's no time ta waste!
Let's keep movin'!
#17 END